

## **REMARKS**

In response to the Office Action mailed September 23, 2005, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the above claim amendments and the following remarks. The claims as presented are believed to be in allowable condition. Claim 8 has been amended to clarify that the hardware ID comprises a predetermined number of bits representing the plurality of components and further comprises a variable number of bits representing each portion of the hardware ID, the variable number of bits corresponding to the ability to differentiate multiple computer systems based on a particular component in the plurality of components. Support for this amendment may be found on page 20, line 15 through page 21, lines 1-6 in the Specification. No new matter has been added.

Claims 8 and 10-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leyda (U.S. Patent 5,867,730), and further in view of Kedeem (U.S. Patent 6,845,428), Bodo (U.S. Patent 6,480,925), Bondy et al. (U.S. Patent 5,491,813, hereinafter "Bondy"), Dapper et al. (U.S. Patent Application 2002/0106060), and Benson, IV et al. (U.S. Patent 6,081,752, hereinafter "Benson"). Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leyda, Kedeem, Bodo, Bondy, Dapper, Benson, and further in view of Lawrence et al. (U.S. Patent 5,995,424, hereinafter "Lawrence").

### **Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112**

Claim 8 (identified in the Office Action as claim 1 but interpreted as claim 8 since claim 1 has been withdrawn from consideration), is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as failing to comply with the written description requirement based on the amendment of

claim 8 in Applicants response mailed on June 29, 2005. Claim 8 has been amended to delete the subject matter described in the present rejection in order to more clearly define an embodiment of the present invention. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 8 should be withdrawn. It should be noted that the aforementioned deleted subject matter does not constitute the addition of new matter as support for the deleted subject matter may be found on page 20, line 15 through page 22, line 13 in the Specification.

### **Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103**

#### **Claims 8 and 10-18**

Claims 8 and 10-18 are rejected as being unpatentable over Leyda and further in view of Kedeem, Bodo, Bondy, Dapper, and Benson. The rejection of these claims is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 8 specifies a hardware ID for identifying a plurality of components of a computer system. The hardware ID is stored on the computer system and is generated during the installation of a software product on the computer system. The hardware ID includes a CD-ROM device portion identifying a CD-ROM device of the computer system, a disk adapter portion identifying a disk adapter of the computer system, a disk device portion identifying a disk device of the computer system, a display adapter portion identifying a display adapter of the computer system, a first drive serial portion identifying a disk drive of the computer system, a MAC address portion identifying a MAC address of the computer system, a processor serial number portion identifying a processor serial number of the computer system, a processor type portion identifying a processor type of the computer system, a RAM size portion identifying a RAM size of the computer system, and a SCSI adapter portion identifying a SCSI adapter

of the computer system. The hardware ID comprises a predetermined number of bits representing the plurality of components and further comprises a variable number of bits representing each portion of the hardware ID, the variable number of bits corresponding to the ability to differentiate multiple computer systems based on a particular component in the plurality of components.

It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Leyda, Kedeem, Bodo, Bondy, Dapper, and Benson, relied upon in the Office Action to reject claim 8, fail to teach, disclose, or suggest all of the features specified in amended independent claim 8. For example, none of the cited references teaches, discloses, or suggests a hardware ID comprising a predetermined number of bits representing the plurality of components and further comprising a variable number of bits representing each portion of the hardware ID, the variable number of bits corresponding to the ability to differentiate multiple computer systems based on a particular component in the plurality of components, as specified in amended independent claim 8.

Therefore, claim 8 is allowable and the rejection of this claim should be withdrawn. Claims 10-18 each depend from amended independent claim 8 and thus are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 8 in addition to the additional features specified therein. For example, Dapper is relied upon in the Office Action to disclose the hashing of a CD-ROM device identification string, disk adapter PCI vendor and device identifications, disk device identification string, video adapter PCI vendor and device identifications, and an operating system assigned serial number of a first drive partition in paragraph 379. Dapper, however discloses none of these features. Instead, Dapper discloses several integrated service units (“ISUs”) in communication

with a telecommunications network. Paragraph 379 of Dapper discloses that the serial numbers of the ISUs may be compressed into a hash code for communication over a limited bandwidth. Accordingly, for at least the aforementioned reasons, the rejections of claims 10-18 should also be withdrawn.

#### Claim 9

Claim 9 is rejected as being unpatentable over Leyda, Kedeem, Bodo, Bondy, Dapper, Benson, and Lawrence. Claim 9 depends from amended independent claim 8 and thus specifies at least the same features. As disclosed in the Office Action, Lawrence discloses a 64 bit hardware piece. Lawrence, however fails to disclose a 64 bit hardware ID as specified in claim 9. Lawrence also, like Leyda, Kedeem, Bodo, Bondy, Dapper, and Benson, fails to teach, disclose, or suggest a hardware ID comprising a predetermined number of bits representing the plurality of components and further comprising a variable number of bits representing each portion of the hardware ID, the variable number of bits corresponding to the ability to differentiate multiple computer systems based on a particular component in the plurality of components. Therefore, claim 9 is allowable and the rejection of this claim should also be withdrawn.

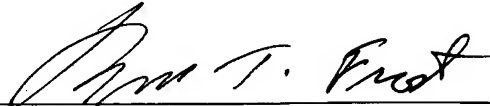
#### Conclusion

For at least the aforementioned reasons, the Applicants assert that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. The Applicants further assert that this response addresses each and every point of the Office Action, and respectfully requests that the

Examiner pass this application to allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at 404.954.5035.

Respectfully submitted,  
MERCHANT & GOULD

Date: March 22, 2006

  
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Roger T. Frost  
Reg. No. 22,176

Merchant & Gould  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
Telephone: 404.954.5100

